



Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School

August 15, 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School! As the new Head of School, I am extremely excited about all the wonderful experiences we are planning this summer to ensure your children have an amazing school year! ♥

Daily Schedule

The **first day of school will be Monday, August 28th**. School hours for this week for all students will be from **8:30am-12pm**. Doors will open at 8am for any students who want breakfast. We will have school on Monday-Thursday, and on **Friday, September 1st, there will be NO SCHOOL**. We will return to school for full days beginning on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023.

Attendance

Punctuality and attendance at school are a top priority this year. We expect students to come every day and on time. Research shows that students who have good attendance at school are more likely to succeed in life! Beginning on September 5, 2023, kindly note the following arrival and dismissal times for students:

- Doors Open for Breakfast: 7:30am
- **Middle School Arrival:** 8:00am
- **High School Arrival:** 8:10am
- All Students Marked Late: 8:15am or after
- **High School Dismissal:** 3:28pm
- **Middle School Dismissal:** 3:32pm

Social Emotional Learning

We are committed to ensuring every student feels safe and loved here at Dr. Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School. Throughout the year, we will ensure we integrate this important learning throughout our school days so students can develop important skills that will help them throughout their lives. *The most important thing for us to remember as the adults who love and support them is that we are always modeling for them. How we, as adults, interact with each other, manage conflict, and respond to difficult situations that arise (and we know these all will arise!) matters a great deal in helping our students learn how to cultivate strong mental health and self-awareness skills.* More information will be shared throughout the year on ways we will partner and support our students in social emotional learning.

Orientation + Technology

During the first week of school, scholars will become familiar with their schedules, our school-wide expectations, and begin to build community with each other as they enter into their new grade levels. Middle school students will also take the NWEA MAP assessment in reading and math to help teachers understand what their learning needs are and how best to support them. High school students will take the NWEA MAP test later in September. *(If your child has a school-issued chromebook, please ensure they return to school with it during the first week of school.)* Our goal is to ensure all students have access to a chromebook, and it is vital

that we take care of these devices to ensure we can uphold that promise. Thank you in advance for ensuring your child treats any technology we provide with care.

Uniforms

All students are required to wear the school uniform. Please see the uniform guidelines and reach out to our main office if you need any assistance. This year, black shoes are *recommended*, but it is okay for students to wear the shoes of their choice (ensuring they are safe and weather/PE appropriate). If your child does not have all of the uniform yet, please do your best to match the uniform guidelines and let us know what the status is for you to get all uniform components. Scholars will not be penalized for not having their uniform when we start school, as we understand it will take time for some to get all components as the year gets started. We anticipate that all students will be able to be in their full uniform by no later than the week of September 11th.

Back to School Night

We look forward to seeing you all on **Thursday, September 28th from 6-8pm** for our Back to School Night event. Please come meet the staff and hear about what our students will be learning for their upcoming school year!

Family Engagement + PTA

Our first Coffee and Conversation event will be held on **Friday, September 22nd from 8:30-9:30am (in person)** where families are welcome to come and chat with me in the Library, as well as our principals Ms. Szmurlo (High School) and Ms. Bynum (Middle School). All dates for these events will be shared with families, and we have a mix of in person, zoom, evening and morning times throughout the year in an attempt to give as many families access as possible. We look forward to partnering with you in service of our students' success! ♥

Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health and Science Charter School is proud to have strong connections with our families. We welcome you to reach out to our Family Engagement Coordinator, Lizette Rivera (lrivera@drizquierdocs.org) and/or our PTA President, Mr. Torres (pta@drizquierdocs.org) whenever you need anything! We are here for you always!

After School and Athletics

We look forward to ensuring our students have the opportunity to engage in enrichment activities after school that ignite their passions. More information on joining after school and athletics will be shared once school starts.

We are looking forward to an amazing year together! Please know my door is always open, and I am honored to serve the Izquierdo community. Cheers to a beautiful school year ahead!

Warmly,



Lindsay Malanga
Head of School